GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3327
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of forest land that has been diverted for various projects during the last three years and the current year in the country including in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, State-wise;

(b) whether environment impact assessment has been conducted for all these projects before diverting forest land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of land on which compensatory afforestation has taken place in the country in place of the land used for these projects, State-wise;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to effectively monitor the compensatory afforestation work?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) A total of 1547 cases have been approved for diversion of forest land for various projects in the country during last three years and the current year (as on 03-12-2009) involving an area of about 25,678 hectares. The State-wise details are contained in Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The compensatory afforestation against the approved projects under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been stipulated on 24,744 hectares of non-forest and degraded forest land. The compensatory afforestation has been achieved on 71.21 hectares. The State-wise details are contained in Annexure-II. The poor achievement in compensatory afforestation during the period is due to the fact that money towards this was got collected in the account of Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (Ad-hoc CAMPA) as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(e) Monitoring of the compensatory afforestation work is primarily done by the State/UT Governments. The Union Government has created a monitoring cell in the Ministry which monitors the progress of Compensatory afforstation on the basis of quarterly reports being submitted by the State/UT Governments. As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Union Government has also created Ad-hocCompensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (Ad - hoc CAMPA) and has requested all the State/UT Governments to create State CAMPAs to facilitate compensatory afforestation activities. The Union Government also monitors the compensatory afforestation work on sample basis with the help of its six Regional Offices.